



February 26, 2005

Dear Elizabeth Withers,

Here is our response/comment(s) for the Supplemental Site-wide EIS for the Continued Operation of the Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico.

In the Scoping Meeting Comment form, It stated, "PLEASE HAND THIS FORM IN OR MAIL BEFORE February 27, 2005" but on your letter dated Jan. 3, 2005 to Dear Interested Party: it stated, "The scoping period for the S-SWEIS will extend through February 28,2005." Because of the differences in dates I am emailing and faxing this letter today. And hopefully, we will be allowed to hand carry the originals on the 28<sup>th</sup> of Feb. with no jeopardy to the comment, "Scoping comments received after February 27,2005, will be considered to the extent practicable."

Please call me at 747-3259 if further clarifications are needed.

Here are the See Attached: responses for questions 1, 2, and 3.

**Supplemental Site-Wide EIS for Continued Operation of LANL, Los Alamos, New Mexico**  
**Submission for S-SWEIS Scoping**

Records have shown that the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) has disposed of over 13.5 million cubic feet of toxic radioactive and chemical wastes on site since 1943. Most of these wastes have been buried either in the mesas of the Pajarito Plateau or in the newer Area G. Area G is adjacent to a spring and several wetlands, and it is upstream from a number of native communities. Mobilization of contaminants by any natural or anthropogenic phenomenon will result in serious environmental contamination, and health problems in the native communities around LANL. Groundwater is continuously percolating downward from these waste sites into the deeper aquifer which have been used as potable water sources. These and many other human health and environmental problems were not adequately addressed in the original SWEIS in 1999 or in the record of decision (ROD) that followed.

In view of these potentially serious health and environmental problems of radio-nuclide contamination of our native people, land, resources, and wildlife from LANL operations, the

**TEWA Women United, together with several other native communities in the LANL area demand that the following studies and evaluations be included in the scope of the planned Supplemental –Site Wide EIS (S-SWEIS) for LANL. The areas to be addressed include:**

- 1. Plant and animal health impacts of LANL operations and radionuclide contamination in the area.**
- 2. Human health impacts of LANL operations**
- 3. Groundwater contamination with a clear analysis of the groundwater flow direction and the likely movement of contaminant plumes resulting from existing disposal sites in the vadose and saturated zones.**
- 4. Soil contamination in relation to human, plants, and wildlife impacts from toxic waste disposal and other activities.**
- 5. Air pollution and prevailing wind movement of air pollutant plumes when such pollutant releases occur.**
- 6. Impact of LANL operations on cultural and ancestral sites, and an evaluation of ways to provide access to these sites for cultural utilization by native communities and their members.**

**All these items should be included as “Environmental Elements” to be analyzed within the scope of the S-SWEIS for LANL. These issues need to be discussed in terms of (a) *the Affected Environment*, and (b) *Environmental Consequences*. In addition, the mitigative measures need to be addressed as part of the S-SWEIS scope for LANL.**

**In addition, since the SWEIS for LANL is to be reviewed every five years, it is our belief that continuous monitoring studies be conducted by independent research groups, preferably reputable universities, to be chosen by our community on the basis of integrity and trust. These continuous monitoring studies should be funded by the DOE through the NNSA in order to assure that serious environmental contamination of our environment has not already occurred, and if so, to ensure that such contamination will not occur in the future.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen M. Sanchez  
Tewa Women United

NM Alliance  
Tribal Environmental Watch Alliance  
Product of Aztlan